

100B.31 Volunteer emergency services provider death benefit — eligibility.

1. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of the state to the department of administrative services an amount sufficient to pay death benefit claims under this section. The director of the department of administrative services shall issue warrants for payment of death benefit claims approved for payment by the department of public safety under subsection 2.

2. *a.* If the department of public safety determines, upon the receipt of evidence and proof from the fire chief or supervising officer, that the death of a volunteer emergency services provider was the direct and proximate result of a traumatic personal injury incurred in the line of duty as a volunteer, a line of duty death benefit in an amount of one hundred thousand dollars shall be paid in a lump sum to the volunteer emergency services provider's beneficiary. A line of duty death benefit payable under this subsection shall be in addition to any other death benefit payable to the volunteer emergency services provider.

b. A line of duty death benefit shall not be payable under this subsection if any of the following applies:

(1) *(a)* The death resulted from stress, strain, occupational illness, or a chronic, progressive, or congenital illness, including but not limited to a disease of the heart, lungs, or respiratory system, unless a traumatic personal injury was a substantial contributing factor to the volunteer emergency services provider's death.

(b) However, if the death was the direct and proximate result of a heart attack or stroke, the volunteer emergency services provider shall be presumed to have died as a result of a traumatic personal injury if the provider engaged in a nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity within the scope of the provider's duties and the death resulted while engaging in that activity, while still on duty after engaging in that activity, or not later than twenty-four hours after engaging in that activity, and the presumption is not overcome by competent medical evidence to the contrary. For purposes of this subparagraph division, "nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity" includes but is not limited to nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency medical services, prison security, disaster relief, emergency response, and training exercise activities. "Nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity" does not include activities of a clerical, administrative, or nonmanual nature.

(2) The death was caused by the intentional misconduct of the volunteer emergency services provider or by such provider's intent to cause the provider's own death.

(3) The volunteer emergency services provider was voluntarily intoxicated at the time of death.

(4) The volunteer emergency services provider was performing the provider's duties in a grossly negligent manner at the time of death.

(5) A beneficiary who would otherwise be entitled to a benefit under this subsection was, through the beneficiary's actions, a substantial contributing factor to the volunteer emergency services provider's death.

3. For purposes of this section, "volunteer emergency services provider" means any of the following:

a. A volunteer fire fighter as defined in section 85.61.

b. A person performing the functions of an emergency medical care provider as defined in section 147A.1 who was not paid full-time by the entity for which such services were being performed at the time the incident giving rise to the death occurred.

c. A reserve peace officer as defined in section 80D.1A.

2000 Acts, ch 1232, §97

C2001, §100B.11

2002 Acts, ch 1079, §1, 3; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2004 Acts, ch 1063, §1; 2006 Acts, ch 1103, §3

C2007, §100B.31

2009 Acts, ch 41, §263; 2010 Acts, ch 1149, §5

Referred to in §80.9, 97A.6, 97B.52, 99B.8, 411.6